(b) if so, the details including total amount of revenue source received from NRIs and from NRIs of Gulf countries for last three years, year-wise, district-wise and category-wise;

(c) if so, whether there is any scheme to assist NRIs who happens to become victims of accident and who used to return permanently to Kerala due to various reasons;

(d) if so, the details of above relief granted for last three years, year-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) State-wise, Country-wise, and Category-wise data about receipt of remittances is not maintained by the RBI.

The remittances from Overseas Indians for the year 2007 was estimated at US$27 billion. These are in the nature of private funds transferred by individuals for various purposes including to meet consumption expenditure of their families back home.

There is no scheme to assist NRI's who happen to become victims of accident and who return permanently to Kerala due to various reasons.

Money sent by Overseas Indians

1951. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether substantial amount of money had been sent by Overseas Indians and also many crores of rupees had been received as emigration deposit from them;

(b) if so, the details including total amount of money sent by Overseas Indians for last five years, year-wise, State-wise, country-wise and category-wise;

(c) if so, the total amount of money received as emigration deposit and total amount of emigration deposits for last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to utilize emigration deposit for welfare of Overseas Indians; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The remittances from Overseas Indians for the last five year are as follows:—

Year	US $ in millions	Rs. in crores
2003-2004	14807	71642
2004-2005	18885	86764
2005-2006	14494	66861
2006-2007	24102	106860
2007-2008	27195	122635

These are private remittances and there is no emigration deposit collected by the Government.

No data State-wise, Country-wise, and Category-wise is maintained by the RBI.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Overhauling of immigration law

1952. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether worried over illegal immigration and the horror stories of Indian workers being cheated and abused abroad, Government has proposed to overhaul the existing law;

(b) if so, whether the new measures would include stiff penalties, including jail terms upto five years, for agents exploiting poor people;

(c) whether Government is planning to amend the Emigration Act, 1983;

(d) if so, the other main points being considered; and

(e) by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) The proposed amendments to the Emigration Act, 1983 intended to facilitate legal emigration, to curb illegal emigration and to make emigration a simple, transparent, efficient and humane process, are under finalization, in consultation with the Law Ministry.

Awareness of RTI Act

†1953. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the citizens of the country, particularly rural people are aware of the Right to Information Act;

(b) if not, whether Government has taken any steps to make people aware of Right to Information Act, 2005;

(c) if so, the details of such steps; and

(d) if not, whether Government would take appropriate step in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The Right to Information Act, 2005 has been notified in the Gazette of India for information of all the citizens of the country. Sensitizing the citizens including the rural people is a continuing process. The Government in this process has given publicity to the Act through various channels of media including television and holding

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.